

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MILAN 00926 260955Z

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /017 W

-----262001Z 052208 /75

R 251400Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL MILAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5400

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS MILAN 0926

DEPT FOR CU/ARTS: EUR/WE (MCKINLEY)

USIA FOR IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: LA SCALA REQUEST FOR PHILADELPHIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

1. ITALY'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS OPERA HOUSE, LA SCALA, WILL BE CELEBRATING ITS BICENTENNIAL IN 1978. DURING RECENT VISIT OF AMBASSADOR GARDNER TO MILAN, NEWLY NAMED DIRECTOR OF LA SCALA, CARLO MARIA BADINI, USED OPPORTUNITY TO REQUEST RECIPROCAL VISIT BY U.S. MUSICAL GROUP TO PERFORM AT LA SCALA DURING 1978 AS PART OF LA SCALA BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. AMBASSADOR GARDNER WELCOMED IDEA IN PRINCIPLE AND PROMISED EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES.

2. IN LATER DISCUSSION WITH CONGEN, BADINI EXPLAINED THAT HE WOULD LIKE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA OR OTHER EQUALLY FAMOUS U.S. SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OR TOP NOTCH U.S. BALLET COMPANY FOR 3 OR 4 PERFORMANCES DURING JUNE OR EARLY SEPTEMBER 1978. BADINI THOUGHT FINANCING COULD BE SHARED EQUALLY BY U.S. AND ITALY. BADINI NOT INTERESTED IN U.S. OPERA COMPANY FOR THIS SEASON SINCE ENTIRE SCALA OPERA SEASON ALREADY BOOKED.

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3. LA SCALA VISIT TO U.S. DURING OUR BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCES VIEWED HERE AS HAVING BEEN HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL-POLITICAL ACHIEVEMENT. IN VIEW OF LA SCALA IMPORTANCE, HISTORICAL-CULTURAL TIES BETWEEN U.S. AND ITALY AND OF POLITICAL IMPACT U.S. CONTRIBUTION TO LA SCALA WOULD HAVE ON NATIONAL LEVEL, WE ARE STRONGLY

FAVORABLE TO RECIPROCITY OF KIND PROPOSED BY LA SCALA.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT OFFICE  
CONTACT PHILADELPHIA SYMPHONY TO SEE IF IT PLANNING  
EUROPEAN TOUR IN 1978 AND IF AVAILABLE FOR 3 OR 4  
CONCERTS AT LA SCALA DURING JUNE OR EARLY SEPTEMBER.  
IF PHILADELPHIA NOT PLANNING EUROPEAN TOUR AND COSTS  
PROHIBITIVE FOR SPECIAL LA SCALA PRESENTATION, REQUEST  
DEPARTMENT CONTACT BOSTON, CHICAGO OR CLEVELAND OR  
SIMILAR SYMPHONIES TO ASCERTAIN THEIR AVAILABILITY.  
ALTERNATIVELY, U.S. BALLET COMPANY WOULD ALSO BE  
EXCELLENT GESTURE AND, LIKE ORCHESTRA, ONE THAT COULD  
BE BOOKED ELSEWHERE IN NORTHERN ITALY

5. WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY DEPT. REACTION.FINA

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MUSIC, CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, COMMEMORATIVE CELEBRATIONS  
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**Subject:** LA SCALA REQUEST FOR PHILADELPHIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
**TAGS:** SCUL, US, IT, PHILADELPHIA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009